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St. Francis National Forest

VISITOR GUIDE

Arkansas

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service Southern Region

For Free Distribution Only

Woodsy Owl says "Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute." According to Woodsy, and many others, the National Forests are the largest playground in the world. Millions of people use the Forests every year and sometimes Woodsy has a difficult time convincing some to keep the Forest free of litter.

Woodsy knows, and so do employees of the U.S. Forest Service, that people tend to take care of those things they appreciate in life. For this reason we, in the Forest Service, want you the visitor, to have the most enjoyable experience possible while you are with us. We are your "Hosts" and as such want to "secure" you in every way we can.

Visitors to the Forest are the most important people we'll ever meet. Each is a part owner of the National Forest. Each has equal right to be there, and the very existence of the National Forests depends on how people feel about them. The word "service" is part of the title of our outfit. We want to be good hosts, not as a special favor, but as part of our work. It's not an option — it's a Must.

St. Francis National Forest

ST. FRANCIS NF RECREATION SITES	FACILITIES									ACTIVITIES				
	FEE AREA	CAMPING UNITS	TRAILER SPACE	TRAILER SANITARY FAC	BOAT LAUNCH	CONCESSIONS	DRINKING WATER	PICNICKING	SANITARY FACILITIES	BOATING	FISHING	HIKING TRAILS	SKIING	SWIMMING
Beaver Point		●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Beech Point	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Lone Pine	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Maple Flat	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Storm Creek Lake	●	●			●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●

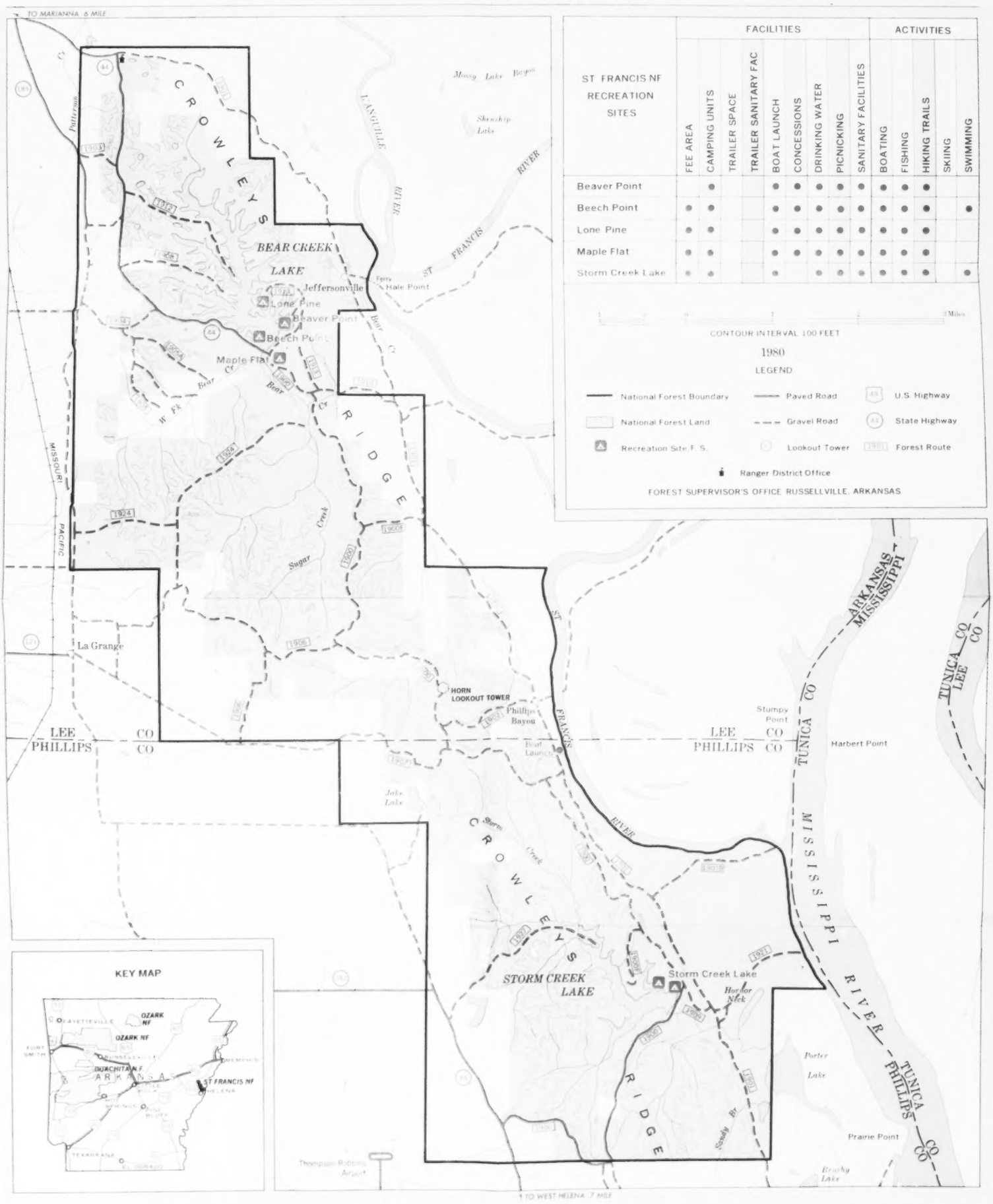
CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET

1980

LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- National Forest Land
- Recreation Site, F. S.
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Lookout Tower
- Ranger District Office
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Forest Route

FOREST SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE, RUSSELLVILLE, ARKANSAS



KEY MAP

the forest

The St. Francis National Forest takes its name from the St. Francis River, one of the rivers forming the east Forest boundary. The discoverer of this river is unknown, as is the origin of the name St. Francis.

Most of the Forest is situated in the hilly Crowley's Ridge section, but some is in the low and flat lands along the rivers. The Forest, established November 8, 1960, covers 20,946 acres in Lee and Phillips Counties of Arkansas.

The Ozark and St. Francis National Forests are both administered by the Forest Supervisor's Office in Russellville. For more information contact: U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 1008, Russellville, AR 72801, or the District Ranger, Rt. 4, Box 14A, Marianna, AR 72360.

range

You may see cattle grazing on pastures in the Forest. All cattle on the St. Francis National Forest are grazed on improved pastures, since uncontrolled grazing may interfere with other forest activities. Intensive management of these pastures is based on a thorough range analysis and an approved allotment management plan. The National Forests allow regulated grazing wherever possible to aid in bolstering the Nation's meat supply. Cattlemen depend on seasonal grazing from Federal lands to "round out" their year-long forage supply.

Livestock grazing on improved pastures on the St. Francis National Forest.

recreation

Storm Creek and Bear Creek Lakes are the two developed recreation attractions on the St. Francis National Forest. With their relaxing forest atmosphere and location near the large population center of Memphis, they are among the most popular recreation areas in the State.

Bear Creek Lake is a favorite spot for recreation visitors seeking outdoor activities such as fishing, swimming, boating, picnicking, and camping. It is rated as one of the best fishing lakes in Arkansas. The 625-acre lake is located along the top of Crowley's Ridge and has five developed recreation sites located near the shoreline.

A variety of other recreation activities exist on the Forest, including viewing roadside scenery, hiking in the forest, hunting, and birdwatching.

Swimming is a popular sport at Bear Creek Lake.

Campers enjoy the solitude at Beech Point Campground.

wildlife

The St. Francis National Forest provides an ideal habitat for a large variety of wildlife, both game and non-game species. Principal game species include deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, and waterfowl. Quail, dove, and several fur-bearing species are also present. The birds of the region are diverse and abundant, including many songbirds, shorebirds, waders, and other water-associated species.

Wildlife habitat management is a cooperative effort between the Forest Service and the State Game and Fish Commission. The wildlife program consists chiefly of protection, managing timber stands for wildlife benefits, and the development of wildlife food plots, waterholes, and other habitat improvements.

Bass, crappie, catfish, and bream are the abundant fish species, attracting large numbers of fishermen to the area.

Fishing attracts many people to Bear Creek Lake.

A primary purpose of the Forest wildlife management program is to provide excellent opportunity for sportsmen, bird and animal watchers, photographers, students, and others to enjoy the fish and wildlife resources as they exist in their natural habitat.

Turkey hunting is a popular sport on the Forest.

timber

The area was heavily cutover during the early part of the century, which accounts for the even-aged condition of the Forest. Today's stands of hardwood are among the finest in Arkansas.

The Forest contains a variety of upland hardwoods commonly found in the Ozarks, along with a rich assortment of bottomland hardwoods. This valuable resource is scientifically managed by professional foresters in order to insure continuous yields of high quality wood products. Management of the timber is coordinated to protect the watershed, provide for wildlife, and provide for a pleasing variety to the landscape.

Harvest of approximately one million board feet annually contributes over $1,000,000 to the local economy and enough lumber to build over 70 homes.

Management of hardwood trees on the St. Francis National Forest provides wood products and habitat for wildlife.

other uses

A variety of special-use permits are in effect, including: pasture haycutting and cultivation; grazing permits; and, cabin sites around Bear Creek and Storm Creek Lakes. Additional uses include roads and highways, power and transmission lines, structures, organizational camps, and rights-of-way.

Each permit is carefully considered and must be compatible with the uses for which the National Forests were established.